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News Release

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5 sentenced for distributing crack cocaine in central Minnesota

The last of five defendants was sentenced last week in federal court in connection with a cocaine base, commonly known as crack cocaine, distribution operation in central Minnesota.

Amy Garnett Brown, 23, Champlin, was sentenced to 32 months in prison and five years of supervised release May 14 in Minneapolis by United States District Court Judge Ann Montgomery on one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute cocaine base.

On Feb. 12, Richard Raymond Chauvin III, 28, St. Cloud, was sentenced to 180 months and five years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy, and Annette Louise Robinson, 43, Brainerd, was sentenced to 36 months and five years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy.

On Feb. 14, Marcus Jeffery Washington, 36, Duluth, was sentenced to 120 months and five years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy, and on April 25, Larry Curtis Tate, 30, Brainerd, was sentenced to 211 months and five years of supervised release on one count of conspiracy. All five defendants were indicted on July 24, 2007.

According to their respective plea agreements, from an unknown time through May 15, 2007, the five defendants knowingly and intentionally conspired with each other to distribute at least 50 grams of a substance containing cocaine base and a substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine.

Cocaine is a powerfully addictive stimulant that directly affects the brain, and crack cocaine is the free-base form of the drug. This form comes in a rock crystal that can be heated and its vapors smoked. The term "crack" refers to the crackling sound heard when it is heated.

Beginning in 2005 to Dec. 18, 2006, Brown knowingly and intentionally conspired with the other four defendants to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute at least 50 grams but less than 150 grams of a substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine base. Brown also

admitted that she was responsible for at least 50 grams of cocaine base.

Before May 15, 2007, Chauvin, Tate and Washington each knowingly and intentionally conspired to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute at least 50 grams of cocaine base, and each admitted that he was responsible for at least 50 grams but less than 150 grams of a substance containing cocaine base. Chauvin also agreed that he has at least one prior conviction for a felony controlled substance offense.

From Oct. 9, 2006, to March 15, 2007, Robinson knowingly and intentionally conspired to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute at least 50 grams but less than 150 grams of a substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine base. Robinson also admitted that she was responsible for at least 50 grams of cocaine base.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the Lakes Area Drug Investigation Division, the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the police departments of Baxter, Brainerd and St. Cloud. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tracy L. Perzel.